— was mandated to consult with Secretaries of Ministries/Departments concerned so that Working Groups specific to the recommendations were established to process them.

(b) and (c) Consultations in this regard have been held and the Department of Economic Affairs is coordinating the responses of the involved Ministries/ Departments. The process of evaluating the recommendations made by the CEO Forum is ongoing and should be completed in the next few months.

Fifth phase of National Highway Development Project

361. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fifth phase of the National Highway Development Project has been launched;

(b) if so, the details of the fifth phase;

(c) the cost of the fifth phase;

(d) in what manner the cost of this phase would be met; and

(e) the details of companies of contractors who have been awarded the fifth phase of highway development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The V Phase of National Highways Development Project is in the stage of preparation except for Vadodara to Surat stretch, which was planned for widening to six lanes before the Phase V was conceived.

(b) It is proposed that total of 6500 kms will be widened to six lanes.

(c) Preliminary estimated cost is Rs. 42.210 crore.

(d) The project would be on Private Public Partnership (PPP) model, wherein the major cost would be met by the private entrepreneurs.

(e) Two concessions have been awarded between Vadodara and Surat section, to the following companies.

(i) M/s IDAA infrastructure Pvt. ltd.
(ii) M/s Larson & Tourbo Vadodara-Bharuch Tollway Limited.